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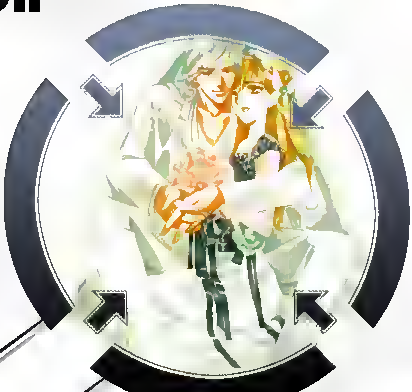
Which



HOSHI NO OUJO

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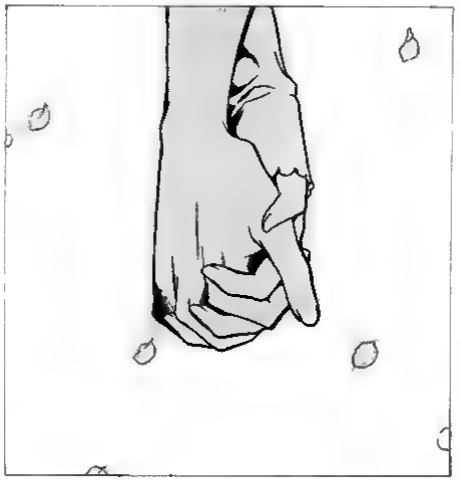


CHAPTER FOUR: THE TONE THAT CONNECTS US

MIRAI.
YOUR NOTES SAVED ME
THANKS
ONCE IN A WHILE YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE YOUR OWN NOTES
YOU REALLY ARE DEDI-CATED
YOU'RE IN THE LIBRARY EVERY DAY UNTIL YOU GO TO WORK RIGHT?
YEAH

THANK YOU, KOU-KUN
DEDI-CATION IS FINE
BUT DON'T WEAR YOUR-SELF OUT

I'M FINE

THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK MIRAI-CHAN!

YOU CAN GO HOME.
AH
HM?
A little longer...
...NOTHING
THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK!

Welcome back, Mira!
I'M HOME...
creak
83

Silence
tmp
tmp
tmp
SLAM

Squeeze

YOU LOOK PALE.

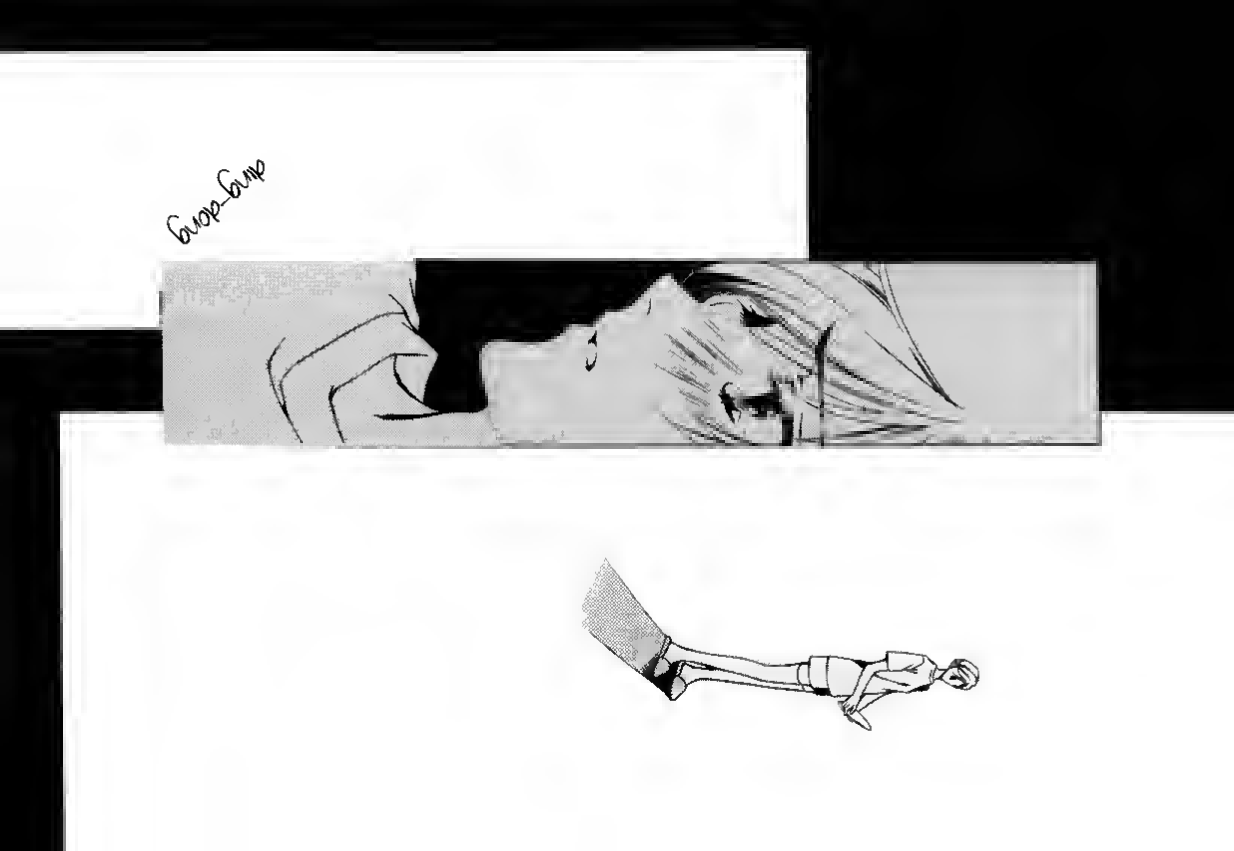
I HEARD FROM FUJI-MURA
THAT YOU'RE GOING TO WORK EVERY DAY.
—DO I?
AFTER KAZUKI-KUN DIED,
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN WEARING YOURSELF OUT?
—BUT,

I MEANT TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU.
FROM NOW ON,
IT'S NO GOOD IF I CAN'T KEEP PAYING FOR TUITION MYSELF
THE MAINTENANCE COSTS OF THIS HOUSE ARE ALSO...
SELL...THE HOUSE?!
AHH,
THERE'S A CORPORATION THAT WANTS TO BUY UP EVERYTHING AROUND HERE FOR A LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.
I THINK THAT YOU'LL RECOGNIZE THE NAME.

BUT THIS HOUSE BELONGS TO MY FAMILY!
AHH
IT MUST BE DIFFICULT TO LET GO OF THE HOUSE THAT HAS MEMORIES OF YOUR FAMILY
THEY'RE BUYING UP ALL THE HOMES AND STORES IN THIS AREA, BIT BY BIT.
YOUR HOUSE ALSO...
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT IT, I CAN HELP YOU WHEN YOU MEET WITH THE IWASAKI GROUP. AND AT LEAST HELP YOU SELL IT FOR A HIGH PRICE.
THE IWASAKI GROUP ?
IT'S A PROMINENT JAPANESE BUSINESS GROUP.

WON'T SUPPORTING THIS HOUSE BE TOO HARD FOR YOU?
I KNOW IT'S A TOUGH CONVER-SATION
JUST THINK ABOUT IT....

Mirai,
what do you want for dinner?
This house is filled with memories
of Oni-san and my family.
I can't sell it
clink clink
I'll help!
Sure.
I want to eat your hamburger stew!

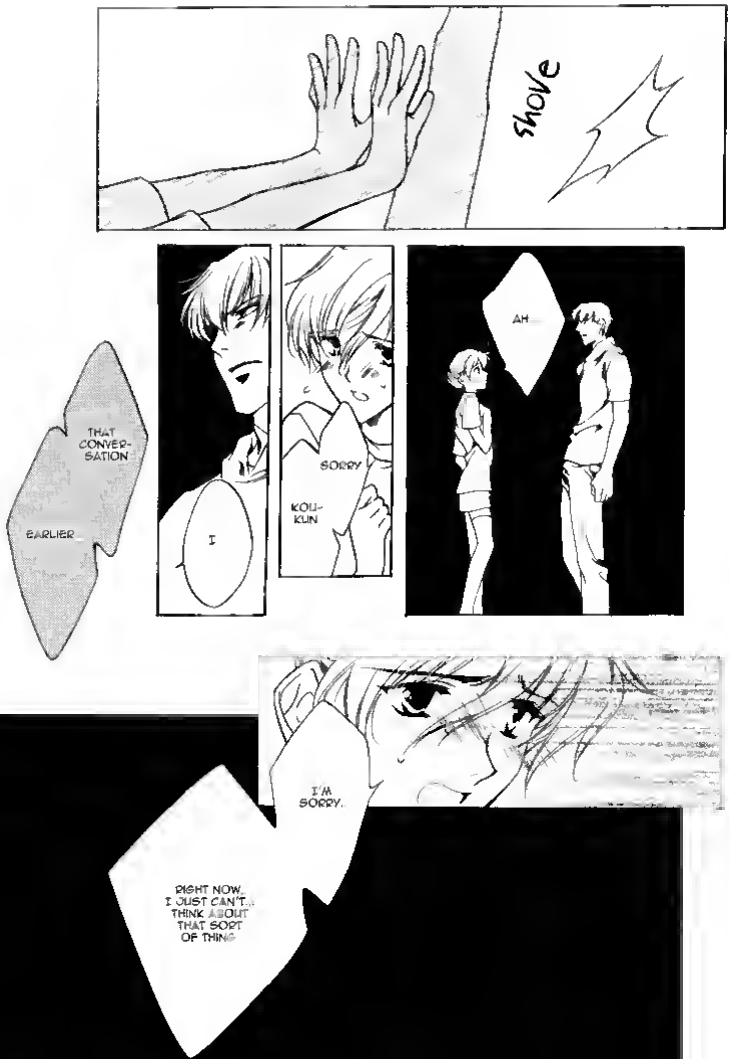

бигра-бигр

I BROUGHT YOU SOME DINNER
KOU-KUN
THANK YOU...
HAVE YOU BEEN CRYING?
OF COURSE NOT.
I'M NOT CRYING.
SILLY KOU-KUN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF IN FRONT OF ME...

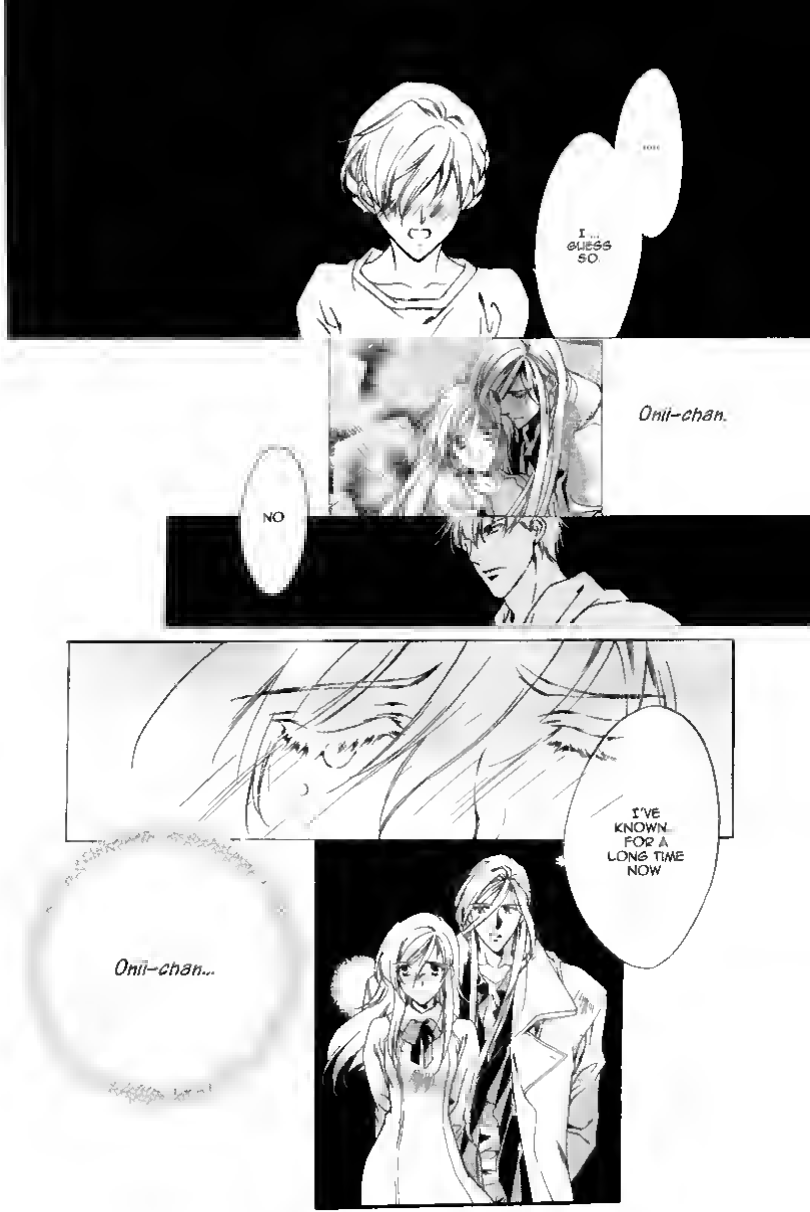
Kou-kun

AM I NO GOOD?
I'VE ONLY LOVED YOU EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS


SHOVE
AH...
SORRY
KOU-KUN
I
THAT CONVER-SATION
EARLIER...
I'M SORRY.
RIGHT NOW, I JUST CAN'T... THINK ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.

I HAVE THAT SORT OF FEELING...
NO.
I'M
SURE THAT... I WON'T BE ABLE TO LOVE ANYONE ELSE AFTER THIS.

YOU
LOVED KAZUKI-SAN AFTER ALL, DIDN'T YOU?


I... GUESS SO
Onii-chan.
NO
I'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME NOW
Onii-chan...

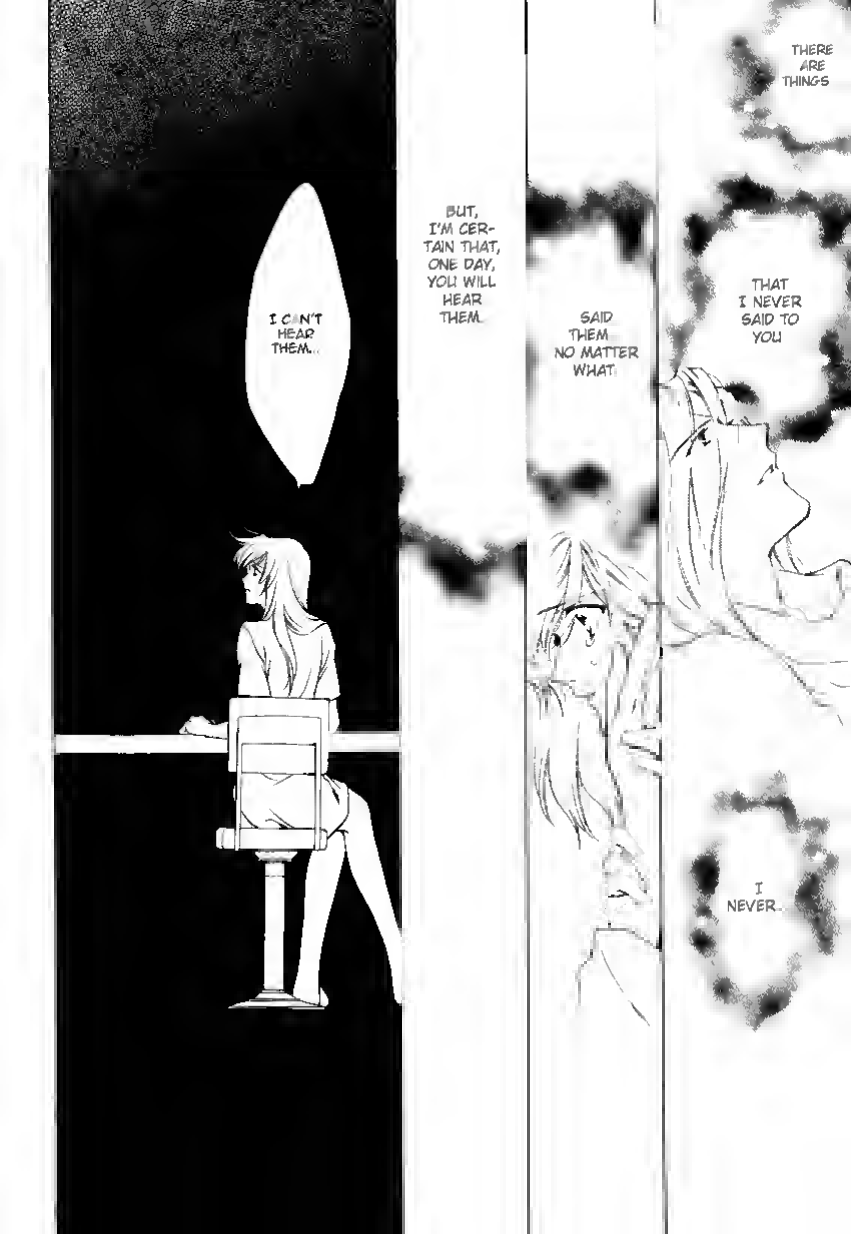
BECAUSE HE WAS MY PRECIOUS FAMILY.

BECAUSE AT LAST I FOUND THE PLACE I BELONGED.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE HIM.

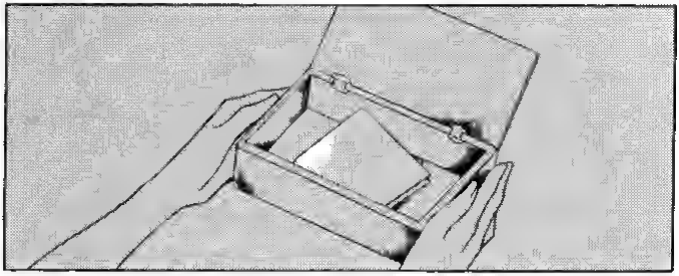
Creak...
ONII-CHAN

I
LOVE YOU.
...LISTEN.
ONII-CHAN...
Not ever.
I noticed, but now my feelings won't reach you


I CAN'T HEAR THEM...
BUT, I'M CERTAIN THAT, ONE DAY, YOU WILL HEAR THEM.
SAID THEM NO MATTER WHAT.
THERE ARE THINGS
THAT I NEVER SAID TO YOU.
I NEVER

I CAN'T HEAR THEM,
ONII-CHAN...
click

It's the orgel
from that time ?
That sound
just now..



I love you.

I'm sure

it was from the first time we met

I'm entrusting the words I always wanted to convey to you in this letter

To my darling Mirai,

Honestly,
when I was with you, my heart was always racing.
It was quite difficult for me to hide it while you were with your nice "Onii-chan."
I couldn't be by your side for long before wanting to tell you.
PIIP
I always wanted to tell you, but--

If it's not too conceited of me to say so,
I believe that you feel the same way--
I do love you
Onii-chan...

Even if painful things happen
Mirai, the tone of the orgel
means "Happiness will return"
I hear them
Onii-chan's feelings

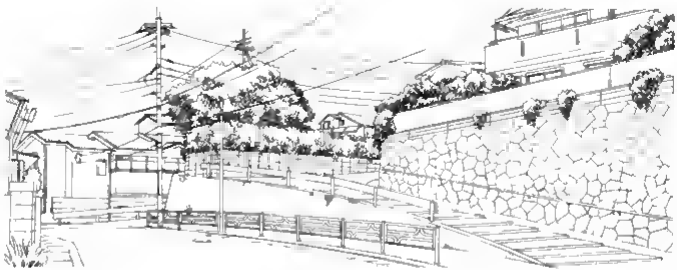
So
live,

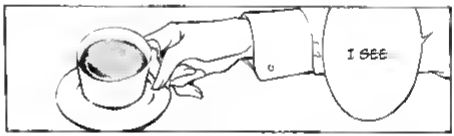
happiness
will return
again,

without fail

and
become
happy,

Mirai

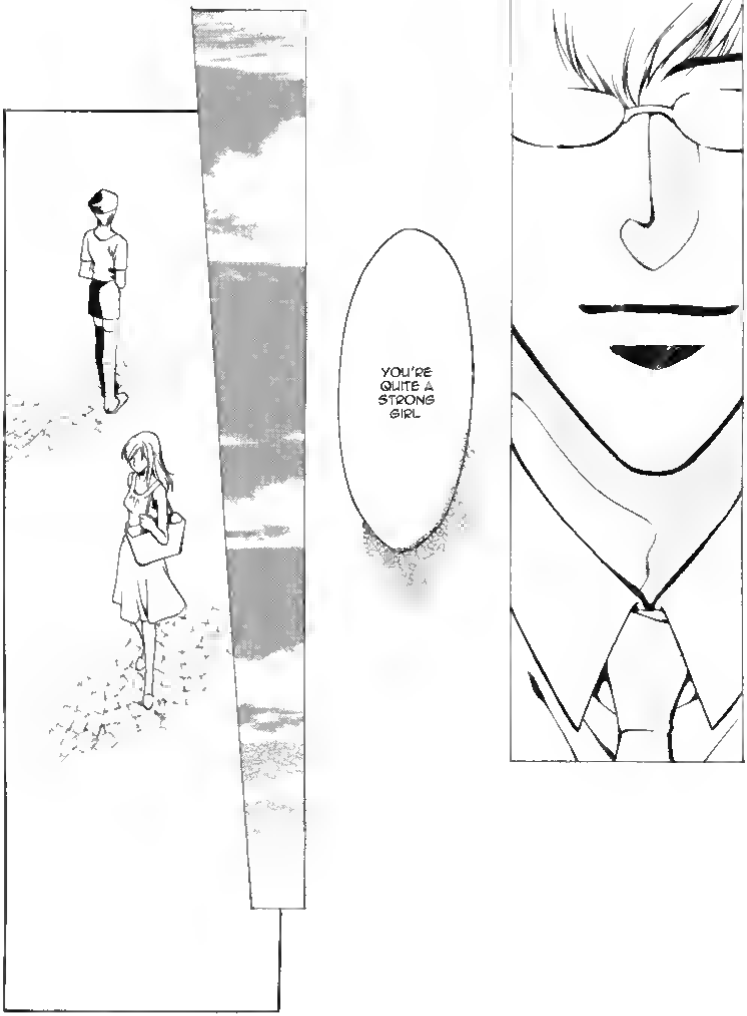



I SEE

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SELL IT

THAT'S RIGHT

I ALMOST GAVE IN
A LARGE HOUSE WITH NO ONE IN IT IS PAINFUL
IT WAS SO PAINFUL I ALMOST WANTED TO CAST EVEN THE GENTLE MEMORIES ASIDE
Mother,
Father,
Onii-chan
BUT NOW,
NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE MEMORIES ARE, I WANT TO PROTECT THEM WITH ALL OF MY STRENGTH.
Because they all left me something I treasure.


YOU'RE QUITE A STRONG GIRL

SEI SUU

Happi-
ness
will
return...
ONII-
CHAN...?!

Onii-chan...?!
It can't be
But...